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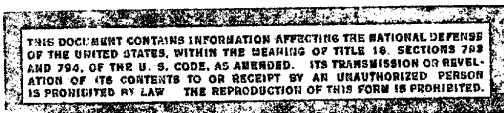
SUBJECT

East German Academy of Sciences

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SOURCE

1. During the last stages of World War II the German Academy of Science was almost inactive. Its work was mainly confined to the continuation of some philological and historical work dating from pre-war times. In the summer of 1946 the Academy was re-established under the sponsorship of the Russian authorities and under the auspices of the East German Administration for Education. Thus, the German Academy of Sciences became an exclusively East German organization, in spite of the fact that the membership roster of the Academy continues to include numerous West German and foreign scientists. Information on the development and structure of the Academy since 1946 is contained in two yearbooks published by the Akademie-Verlag in 1950 and 1951, one covering the period from 1946 to 1949, the other the period from 1950 to 1951. Most of the factual information contained in these books is believed to be true. It was planned to publish a third yearbook in 1953. The plan was deferred after the dismissal from the position of Academy Director of Dr. Josef Neas in the spring of 1953. Neas had compiled the first two post-war Academy yearbooks.

2. Because the organization structure of the Academy has undergone changes since the publication of the last yearbook and because the yearbooks give only scant personnel information, an outline of the present structure follows:

a. The Academy is headed by the Presidium. This body is composed of the Academy President, the two Vice-Presidents, the five Deans of the Academy Classes, and the Academy Director. The Presidium is the uppermost authority in all questions concerning Academy policy, in particular its relations with the Government. The President cannot act independently, but only on behalf of the Presidium, which is responsible to the Government. During the first post-war period the Academy was subordinated to Minister Paul Tandel, who first headed the Administration for Education of the East German Economic Commission and later became Minister of Education. Subsequently the Academy was placed directly under the authority of the Chief of the Government Chancellery, State Secretary Dr. Geyer. There followed an interim period during which the Academy was left practically without proper affiliation with any special Government agency but was nominally under the Office of the Minister-President. In the summer of 1951 the Academy was finally placed under the authority of the Council of Ministers, where Paul Tandel, at present coordinator with the rank of Minister for Science, Art and Education, was again put in charge of Academy matters.

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b. While the Presidium convenes periodically - mostly weekly and on special occasions - current matters are handled by the Office of the President. Present Academy President is 70 year-old Prof. Walter Friedrich, who also holds a chair at Berlin Humboldt University and heads the Academy Institute for Medicine and Biology in Berlin-Buch. He is a specialist on medical physics and radiation therapeutics. He acquired his scientific reputation during the first quarter of the century when he worked with Nobel Prize physicist Max von Laue on X-ray interference. Friedrich is an SED sympathizer; whether he is a party member is not known. Although he submits to practically all Government requirements, he is not entirely trusted by the ruling authorities. Some time after he became Academy President he was invited for a visit to Moscow. Upon his return he was full of praise of the Russian system. He is a member of the presidium of the Communist controlled World Peace Council and chairman of the German Peace Committee. Friedrich is assisted by two vice-presidents: Professor Hans Erpel, geophysicist and meteorologist of Berlin Humboldt University, and Professor Johannes Stroux, philologist at the same university and Friedrich's predecessor as Academy President.

c. The Plenum is the body of all members of the Academy. ^{1/} It convenes in regular sessions and at the request of the President. Theoretically it has the right to elect new members to the Academy. It is also authorized to settle by majority vote issues of Academy policy and questions concerning the overall research program. However, election of new members, Academy policy and Academy scientific activities are in practice ultimately determined by the Government through use of the Academy Presidium. A striking example is the election as a member of the Academy in 1952 of Fred Oelsner, a member of the SED Politburo, and a man without academic standing.

d. All Plenum members are divided into five Classes; each Class is headed by a Dean, called a Sekretär. The Classes convene in sessions of their own to discuss problems in their individual fields of research. The Classes are as follows:

- 1) Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Deans - Profs. Kurt Moack and Wilhard Mitscherlich
- 2) Medical Sciences - Prof. Karl Lohmann
- 3) Technical Sciences - Prof. Kurt Moack, successor of Prof. Hans Nordmann, who resigned some time ago.
- 4) Languages, Literature and Arts - Prof. Johannes Stroux
- 5) Social Sciences - Prof. Fritz Hartung.

Wilhard Mitscherlich was Dean of the Class for Agricultural Sciences until late 1951. This Class was then abolished, and Mitscherlich was associated with the Mathematics and Science Class, where he was to deal with those questions of agricultural science which continue to fall within the competence of the Academy. Early in 1951, the Council of Ministers decided that an Academy for Agricultural Sciences should be established in East Germany and that the Class for Agricultural Sciences should serve as a starting point for this. This decision met with the disapproval of many academicians and members of the Academy Administration. It was an open secret that the plan to found an independent Academy of Agricultural Sciences was initiated by the Russians and that the Government acceded to this wish on the pretext that this would serve to better fulfill the five-year plan in the field of agricultural production. A majority of the academicians insisted that the Class for Agricultural Sciences in the Academy of Sciences be maintained, because in their opinion this Class handled

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scientific research aspects of agriculture which the personnel of the planned Academy of Agricultural Sciences would not be able to perform. After a struggle which lasted until late in 1951 the Government view prevailed and the Academy for Agricultural Sciences was officially founded. Professor Hans Stubbe, geneticist of Jena University and head of the Academy Institute for Plant Research (Institut fuer Kulturpflanzenforschung) in Gatersleben, was appointed head of the Academy for Agricultural Sciences. The seriousness of the arguments concerning the creation of the new Agricultural Academy can be measured by the fact that the personnel of Stubbe's Institute and of the Mitscherlich's Institute for the Increase of Plant Yield (Institut zur Steigerung der Pflanzenertrage) in Paulinenaue refused to be separated from the Academy of Sciences. These two Institutes were not transferred to the Agricultural Academy. Thus, a singular situation arose. Stubbe, while presiding over the new Agricultural Academy, continues to direct one of the agricultural institutes of the Academy of Sciences.

e. The Office of the Academy Director is the executive organ of the Presidium and the President. Dr. Josef Naas was appointed Academy Director when the Academy was re-founded in 1946. He held this post until the spring of 1953 when he was replaced by Dr. Hans Wittbrodt, former head of the Research and Development Department of ZsFT. Naas' replacement was the climax of a long struggle between the Academy of Sciences and the Government (State Planning Commission). The Academy Director has the over-all supervision of the scientific and administrative activities of the Academy. His Office includes the following Sections:

- 1) Personal Referent of the Director - Siegfried Langhans.
- 2) Publishing Activity - Prof. Boehme (fnu)
- 3) Social Care - Frau Gnaedig. (The Academy guest house in Zeuthen is also under Frau Gnaedig's supervision.)
- 4) Travel and Procurement of Foreign Currency - Matzelt (fnu), who came from Hamburg.

f. The Academy Director directly supervises the scientific Referenten of the Academy. There is one scientific Referent for each Academy Class. The Referenten are responsible for the planning and organizing of scientific activities within their individual Classes and the academy institutes affiliated with them. They receive reports on this activity from all institutes and translate them into a consolidated report for their Class, which subsequently is forwarded to the Academy Director who, in turn, forwards it to the Central Institute for Research and Technology (ZsFT) or the State Planning Commission. The Referenten are also responsible for the scientific assessment of new personnel to be hired for Academy institutes. Final approval for employment, however, cannot be given by the Referenten, but by the Academy Director up to the level of chief assistants and by the Presidium for personnel on a higher level. The Referenten also have to assess the practicability of financial investments in Academy institutes. The following are the present five scientific Referenten:

- 1) Referent for Mathematics and Natural Sciences - Dr. Alfred Sende
- 2) Referent for Medical Sciences - Dr. Hans Gummel
- 3) Referent for Technical Sciences - Dr. Georg Otterbein
- 4) Referent for Languages, Literature and Art - Dr. Otto Neuendorff
- 5) Referent for Social Sciences - Dr. Johannes Irmischer

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g. The Referenten maintain the liaison between the Academy Director and the institutes affiliated with the Academy. The 1950 - 1951 yearbook of the Academy does not indicate which Referenten have jurisdiction over individual institutes. The table containing such indications in the 1946 - 1950 yearbook is no longer valid, particularly in the fields of natural sciences and technical sciences. The following is the present status of these two fields:

- 1) Dr. Alfred Wende, Referent for Mathematics and Natural Sciences, is now responsible for the following Institutes:
 - a) Institute for Inorganic Chemistry in Berlin-Adlershof, headed by Academician Erich Thilo, chemist at Humboldt University, Berlin. This Institute was activated in 1952.
 - b) Institute for Fiber Research in Teltow-Seehoff, headed by Academician Erich Correns. This Institute was formerly under the jurisdiction of the Referent for Technical Sciences.
 - c) Institute for Fiber Technology in Copitz, headed by Academician Walter Frenzel. This Institute was formerly under the jurisdiction of the Referent for Technical Sciences.
 - d) Institute for Plant Research in Cartersleben, headed by Academician Hans Stubbe. This Institute was formerly under the Referent for Agricultural Sciences.
 - e) Institute for the Increase of Plant Yield in Paulinenaue, headed by Academician Wilhelm Mitscherlich. The Institute was formerly under the jurisdiction of the Referent for Agricultural Sciences.
 - f) Academy Laboratory for Synthetic Matters, headed by Dr. Alfred Wende. This was formerly a department in the Laboratory for Organic Chemistry in Teltow-Seehof.
- 2) The following institutes, which were formerly under the jurisdiction of Dr. Alfred Wende, are now under the jurisdiction of Dr. Georg Osterbein, Referent for Technical Sciences:
 - a) Astrophysical Observatory in Potsdam, headed by Academician Walter Grotrian.
 - b) Observatory Babelsberg in Potsdam-Babelsberg, headed by Academician Walter Grotrian.
 - c) Observatory Sonneberg.
 - d) Institute for Astronomical Calculations, Potsdam-Babelsberg.
 - e) Institute for Mathematics, Berlin.
 - f) Geodetic Institute, Potsdam.
 - g) Central Seismological Institute, Jena.
 - h) Geotectonical Institute, Berlin.
 - i) Heinrich-Hertz-Institute for Oscillation Research, Berlin-Adlershof.
 - j) Institute for the Physics of Gas Discharge, Greifswald, headed by Academician Rudolf Seoliger. Prior to 1951 this Institute was an Academy laboratory.

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- k) Institute for Research on the Physics of Solids, Berlin-Buch.
 - l) Institute for Crystal Physics, Berlin-Adlershof, headed by Prof. Ostap Stasiw. This is identical with the former Academy Laboratory for Research on the Physics of Solids, Dresden.
 - m) Institute for Optics and Precision Mechanics, Berlin-Adlershof, headed by Prof. Ernst Lau. This is identical with the former Academy Laboratory for Optics, Berlin-Karow.
 - n) Physical-Hydrographical Institute, Berlin-Friedrichshagen, headed by Academician Hans Ertel.
 - o) Laboratory for Organic Chemistry, Berlin-Buch.
 - p) Institute for Research on Radiation Source, Berlin.
 - q) Academy Institute Miersdorf.
- 3) The Academy Institute for Construction Matters (Institut fuer Bauwesen), headed by Professor Liebknocht (fnu), which was formerly under Otterbein, is no longer affiliated with the Academy of Sciences. In 1950 an independent East German Construction Academy (Bauakademie) was founded, and Liebknocht was made its president. Separation of the Institute personnel and its transfer to the new Construction Academy was carried out during Naas' absence, while he was on a visit to Poland. Naas and a number of other Academy personnel had strongly opposed the separation and the foundation of an independent Construction Academy.
- h. 1) The Administrative Department of the Academy is located at Jaegerstrasse 22-23, the building of the former Prussian State Bank. This building also contains the offices of the Presidium, the Academy Director, the Academy Classes, the Hall for the Plenary Sessions, and a number of institutes. The Department is also in charge of the administration of the Academy Library and a number of institutes. It is also charged with the administration of the Academy building at Unter den Linden 8, which houses the Academy Library and a number of institutes. The Administrative Department is headed by the Administrative Director of the Academy. This post was held from 1946 to the spring of 1953 by Dr. Johannes Alfons Naikowski. In early 1953 he was replaced by Walter Freund, also as a result of the struggle between the Academy and the Government. Freund, who spent the Hitler period as an emigrant in Russia, was put in charge of the Educational Department of the Greater Berlin Magistrate after the war. For some time he was personal Referent to Minister of Education Paul Wendel. He then was made head of the Commission for the Advancement of Technical Intelligence. He is known to have had very good relations with the Central Committee of the SED and to have been on friendly terms with the legal expert of the Central Committee, Prof. Dollack (fnu).
- 2) The Office of the Administrative Director has the following subdivisions:
- a) Registry Office, headed by Frau Moeller (fnu).
 - b) Real Estate Office, headed by Dr. Kurt (fnu) until about March 1953, when he was replaced by Dr. Piekniewski (fnu).
 - c) Investment Office, headed by Pucher (fnu).
 - d) Finance Department, headed by Hoehne (fnu), who will be transferred to the Finance Ministry on 1 October 1953, and replaced by his present deputy, Rebe (fnu).

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- e) The former Economic Department no longer exists; it has been split into a Purchasing Department, a Transportation Office headed by Dettmer (fnu) and an Administrative Office for the two Academy buildings in Jaegerstrasse and Unter den Linden.
 - f) The Construction Department, headed by Nipkow (fnu), is scheduled to be dissolved in the near future and to be taken over by one of the state projecting and construction offices.
 - g) The Planning Department, under acting head Riese (fnu), is subdivided into a Section for the Development of Plans and a Section for the Carrying Out of Plans.
 - h) Office for Salaries, Wages, Social Insurance and Taxes, headed by Rotkirch (fnu).
 - i) Personnel Department, headed by Moeller (fnu), who was transferred in April 1953 from the Ministry of the Interior to the Academy. He is a political functionary, and his main task is political surveillance of Academy personnel.
1. The Akademie-Verlag, located at Schiffbauerdamm 19 in Berlin NW7, was headed by Bernhard Kesser until the fall of 1951, when he defected and was replaced by Bernhard Gabelin, with Kruschwitz (fnu) as deputy. Since Gabelin is ill a great deal of the time he is expected to be replaced in the near future. The Refarent of the Academy Director, Siegfried Langhans, aspires to Gabelin's position. The Akademie-Verlag has a representative in Stuttgart, Bieber (fnu), owner of the firm Kunst und Welt at Konigsplatz 24. The Akademie-Verlag intends in the near future to dismiss Bieber and to replace him with Matzelt (fnu), present head of the Travel and Currency Section of the Director's Office and personal friend of Langhans.
2. Since its re-establishment in 1946, the Academy has greatly increased the scope of its activities and the number of its personnel. While, in 1946, the Academy personnel amounted to hardly more than 50 persons, the number of persons employed had increased to 1,100 in 1950 and to about 3,000 in August 1953 (including scientists, technical and administrative personnel). According to the Academy Five-Year Plan, which became effective in 1951, the Academy is to employ about 4,000 persons in 1955. This development, however, has not proceeded without serious disturbances:
- a. The activity of the Academy in the field of natural sciences and technical sciences has steadily increased since its reconstitution. Many institutes have been taken over by the Academy, and a considerable number of them have been rebuilt with large investments in material and personnel expenses. A number of new institutes have been established. Development of the social sciences has lagged considerably in comparison with that of natural and technical sciences. The Government has therefore reproached the Academy for promoting natural and technical sciences at the expense of social sciences and has repeatedly instructed the Presidium to reorganize social-scientific activities on the Soviet model. The discrepancy between the development of scientific-technical and scientific-social activity of the Academy has not yet been eliminated. There have been tentative plans for amalgamating into one Class the Classes for Languages, Literature and Arts and Social Science. These plans are still in existence, but nothing definite has been decided upon as yet.
 - b. Behind the scenes there has been a deep-rooted and long-drawn out struggle between the Academy and the Government as represented by its Central Office for Research and Technology (ZLF) and the technical ministries. The main bone of contention has been the problem of how to plan the research carried out by the Academy and its affiliated institutes. The Academy, in the eyes of the Government, represents a politically unreliable organization within the East German system. In confidential sessions of Academy

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and Government personnel, the Academy has repeatedly been designated as an assembly of rather old, "unmodern" gentlemen, constituting nothing but an "Indian reservation", or as a politically unreliable and ambitious group of scientists who oppose planning of research because of reactionary feelings and in the name of the so-called freedom of science. The academicians have also been accused of being reluctant to apply the security measures deemed necessary by the Government. This struggle ultimately developed into a fight, replete with intrigue, between the Academy and ZFT. Since 1951, the Academy has been carrying on its activities within the framework of a Five-Year Plan, with the ultimate purpose of increasing East German economic production. Although the Academy has formally complied with the necessities dictated by the Plan, it has been continually reproached by ZFT for evading actual planning and for sabotaging Government efforts. One of the moves of the Government designed to secure closer political control over the Academy was the change of the Academy statutes in early 1951 establishing the Presidium and assigning to it over-all authority in matters concerning the policy of the Academy. Thus, ultimate direction of Academy affairs was taken out of the hands of the President, who for the sake of appearances had to be a well-known scientist, that is, in most cases an old, "unmodern" person not closely connected with the ruling party, and was put into the hands of a body which in the person of the Academy Director and some of the Referenten could be composed by reliable Communists. This scheme, however, turned out to be only partially successful. Although a convinced Communist, Academy Director Josef Naas, a mathematician by profession, submitted more and more to the influence of academy scientists and was finally placed in a position where he had to defend, at least timidly, the interests of the Academy against those of the Government. The struggle thus developed into a fight between the Academy Administration on the one hand and the Central Office for Research and Technology (ZFT) on the other. Up to and including 1953, so called "pure research" was more or less free of over-emphasized Government control. It was financed through the household budget of the Academy. That part of the research carried out in Academy institutes which was considered of importance for the development of the national economy was financed through ZFT and was subjected to all the formalities inherent to ZFT planning and ZFT control, much as research carried out in industrial enterprises. The ZFT share in the financing of Academy research projects has in the past been substantial, although it has remained considerably lower than the funds allowed for research in the general **budget of the Academy**. The 1953 figures may serve as an example: The Academy budget (not including investments) amounts to 32 million DME, whereas funds for government-controlled Academy research are only 2.5 million DME. It has been the aim of ZFT to secure control over all research activity carried out by the Academy and to subject it to its over-all supervision. In this effort, ZFT did not refrain from taking extraordinary steps. When, in 1953, it became evident that the opposition of the Academy to the extension of ZFT control was increasing, ZFT recalled its share of 2.5 million DME and took the position that these funds were included in the total sum of 32 million DME provided for the Academy **budget**. However, when it became clear that a change in the Academy administration was imminent and would secure increased ZFT control over the Academy, the 2.5 million DME were again put at the disposal of the Academy, in addition to its 32 million DME **budget** funds. From 1951 to the spring of 1953, Joseph Naas sought unsuccessfully to effect a compromise between interests of the Government and the Academy. Being a Communist, he was opposed at least in the beginning of his struggle by many old Academicians who made him personally responsible - unjustly - for political interference of the authorities in Academy matters. In order to win the confidence of the Academicians, Naas publicly attacked ZFT. The Director's Report of the 1950 - 1951 Academy Yearbook contains phrases such as this:

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"The making available of (ZAFI) funds meets with the approval of all members and collaborators; however, ZAFI tends to insert into its relationship with the Academy an excessive burden of paper work, such as the filling of form sheets, instead of maintaining living human contact." 3/

The following are the more important phases in the struggle between the Academy and ZAFI:

- 1) In 1950 Academy President Johannes Stroux, accompanied by Academician Milhard Mitscherlich, went to the head of the Russian SMI in Karlshorst and complained about the dictatorial behavior of Academy Director Naas who, according to them, tried to rule the Academy on the basis of mere party ideology. Subsequently a session was called in which the following persons participated: Minister Wendel, Stroux, Dr. Theodor Brugsch of the Berlin Charite Hospital, Administrative Director Maikowski in the absence of Naas, and Nikitin, then Russian liaison officer with the Academy. In this session it was decided that the Academy statutes should be revised for the purpose of establishing and defining more clearly its functions and the jurisdiction of its officials.
- 2) Some time later Prof. Werner Lange, head of ZAFI, repeatedly accused the Academy of sabotaging the efforts of the Government for planning scientific research. He particularly attacked Naas, as the responsible official. Naas took the position that the Academy was not yet ready for the sort of planning requested by ZAFI, and he also reproached ZAFI for engaging the Academy in an entirely unnecessary "paper war".
- 3) In this fight between the Academy and ZAFI, the Russian authorities did not support one side or the other, although there was no doubt that the Government's request for the strict planning of scientific research and its exploitation for advancing the Five-Year Plan met with the approval of the Russians. However, for some time at least, the Russians tried to give the impression of impartiality. Early in 1951, Naas was called to Karlshorst and asked whether he had any complaints against Nikitin in connection with the controversial issues between the Academy and the planning authorities. Naas did not advance any such complaints.
- 4) While the year 1951 was made the initial year for the Academy Five-Year Plan and while the plan issue was thus decided in principle, the controversy between the Academy and ZAFI became more serious. At the end of 1951, Minister-President Otto Grotewohl called a session with Lange, Wendel and Naas and rendered what was later jokingly referred to in Academy circles as a "judgment of Solomon" in settlement of the controversy. The minutes of this session stated that it was not the intention of Academy Director Naas to evade the Government's desires for planning Academy activities. They furthermore recognized the importance of the Academy program and the necessity for its further development.
- 5) Grotewohl's "judgment of Solomon" tended to strengthen Naas' position. From then on the struggle in many instances took the form of intrigue. The side of the Government was strongly supported behind the scenes by ZAFI and its President, by the President of the Construction Academy Liebknecht, Professor Robert Havemann of Humboldt University, Professor Friedrich Moeglich, head of the Academy Institute for Research on the Physics of Solids, and Professor Robert Rompe, head of the Academy Institute for Radiation Sources.

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It is significant that the supporters of the Government were for the most part not to be found within the ranks of the "Indian reservation", that is, full-fledged members of the Academy, but among the personnel of Academy institutes and non-Academic institutes. Personal points of view also played a role: the ZAFI department head for Research and Development, Hans Wittbrodt, Rompe, and Moeglich were close personal friends. The full-fledged Academicians gradually realized that Naas, in spite of his unquestionable Communist affiliations, had been forced by the Lange-Moeglich-Rompe faction into a position where he at least timidly defended the best interests of the Academy. Naas' position was supported by Academicians such as Mitscherlich, Hans Ertel, Kurt Noack, Karl Lohmann and Erich Thilo. 4/ Among other things, these Academicians accused ZAFI of conspiring to place the Academy in the straight-jacket of its planning, which was naturally amateurish because of the lack of qualified scientists in ZAFI. They also pointed out that only those persons who obtained their research funds almost exclusively from ZAFI and not through the Academy household budget were on ZAFI's side, such as Robert Rompe. The Government finally attempted to find technical mistakes in the Academy management in order to have a reason for taking action against those who opposed its plans. A team of Government investigators was sent by State Secretary Georginu 5/ of the Finance Ministry to inspect all books of the Academy and tried to find irregularities which could be used against Naas and his Administrative Director Maikowski. The result of this investigation was a report in which it was stated that the Academy had paid its scientists in the Lands of East Germany according to the same wage scales that applied in Berlin, which was inadmissible, that the Academy Administration and the Akademie-Verlag had disposed of foreign currency in an unauthorized manner, that investment funds for the restoration of Academy Institutes had been used improperly, and that individual contracts with scientists had been made without proper authorization. As a result of these accusations, Administrative Director Maikowski resigned from his post in December 1952, but was asked to remain. Early in 1953, the Central Committee of the SED called a session in which Naas participated in the role of defendant and in which he was accused of mismanagement and of interference with Government plans. The Central Committee then decided that Naas was to be dismissed. Subsequently Naas tried to prove his communist loyalty by trying to quiet those Academicians who wanted to intervene in his favor. He maintained that he urgently desired to return to his original occupation as a mathematician and therefore wanted to give up his job as Academy Director. Academician Erhard Schmid nominated Naas as Scientific Cooperator and Professor of the Academy. After the Plenum voted in favor of this proposal the Government withheld its approval until the matter threatened to become a public scandal. In the spring of 1953, Naas was affiliated with the Academy Institute of Mathematics and ZAFI official Hans Wittbrodt became his successor as director of the Academy. At about the same time Maikowski gave up his post as administrative Director and was succeeded by Walter Freund.

- c) The controversy between the Government and the Academy has thus been settled, as was to be expected, in favor of the Government. It is to be expected that from 1954 on, the Academy research will be the object of full ZAFI planning in exactly the same way as industrial research.

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Comment. This does not include the personnel of the Academy institutes and Administration who are Academy employees.

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Comment. See attached sketch of the organizational structure of the Academy.

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Comment. See 1950 - 1951 Yearbook, page 71

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Comment. According to source, Thilo's position in the course of the controversy has changed from a "yes-man", to that of an objector to all political interference in Academy matters. In several instances, not directly connected with the controversy in question, Thilo has threatened to resign if political interference in his work was not stopped. Source's statement is borne out by reports from other sources to the effect that Thilo, after the riots of 17 June 1953, took an aggressive attitude towards Party officials who wanted to indoctrinate the members of his Institute against a recurrence of insubordination. When one such official compared economic planning with physical or chemical experiments as carried on in Academy Institutes, Thilo is reliably reported to have objected to this comparison, pointing out that physical and chemical experiments are performed with dead matter, whereas the Government's planning experiments are carried out on human beings. Accordingly, so Thilo stated, experimenters who failed in such experiments should be sent to the gallows as in the case of irresponsible medical experimenters.

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Comment. Originally a shoemaker, during the Nazi regime a paymaster.

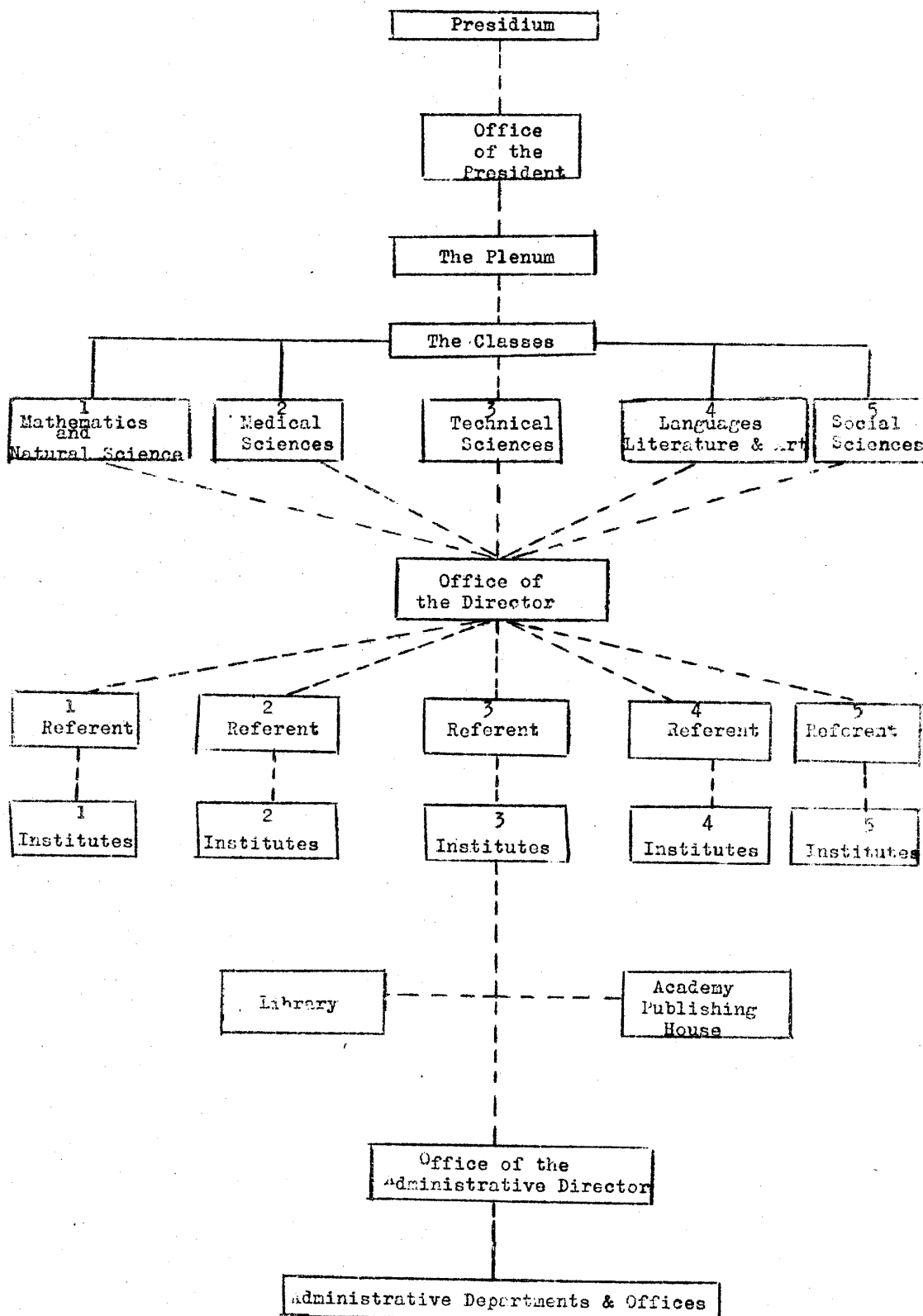
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STRUCTURE OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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ATTACHMENT



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